

Child Protection Services

Purpose of Child Protection Services (NDCC 50-25.1)

- Protecting the health and welfare of children by encouraging the reporting of children who are known to be or suspected of being abused or neglected;
- Providing adequate services for the protection and treatment of abused and neglected children and protecting them from further harm;
- Identifying the causes and circumstances that contribute to children's deaths; and recommending changes in policy, practices, and law to prevent children's deaths.

Summary: A child protection service (cps) assessment is a fact-finding process designed to provide information in order to determine whether services are required to provide for the protection and treatment of an abused or neglected child. Each report of suspected child abuse and neglect is assessed. The level and type of assessment differ according to the concerns reported. CPS

assessments are completed by social workers employed by county social service offices.

The County Social Service Boards act as designees of the N.D. Department of Human Services, and the department provides supervision and direction through policies,

procedures, and technical assistance from the central and regional offices.

	CY1999	CY2000	CY2001	CY2002	CY2003
Full Assessments	4147	4055	4029	4109	3903
Administrative Assessments or Referrals	2082	2100	2505	2938	3345
Total Reports	6229	6155	6534	7047	7248

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Activities

Each year North Dakota directs prevention activities through the administration of federal grants. Some of the activities/programs funded include:

- **Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota:** is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of all types of child maltreatment
- **Nurturing Parenting Programs:** are validated, family-centered programs designed to build nurturing skills as alternatives to abusive parenting attitudes and practices; serve families in seven counties; exist to stop the generational cycle of child abuse and to reduce recidivism
- **Parenting the First Year:** is a 12-month, age-paced educational publication mailed to parents after the birth of a baby; created with the N.D. Department of Health
- **Family/Parenting Resource Centers:** work to strengthen families by providing parenting education and support; currently six exist
- **Circle of Parents:** are mutual self-help parent support groups that strengthen families
- **Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Campaign:** raises awareness of the effects of child molestation and ways to prevent sexual abuse from happening
- **N.D. Child Fatality Review Panel:** reviews all in-state child deaths for preventability

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